

Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 EB-11 CPR-02 PA-03 PRS-01

USIA-12 SY-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 COME-00

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R 091850Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8046

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, BE

SUBJ: VISIT TO U.S. OF BELGIAN ECONOMICS MINISTER CLAES.

REF: BRUSSELS 3160

1. SUMMARY; BELGIAN MINECON AFFAIRS, ACCOMPANIED BY TWO SENIOR AIDES, INTENDS VISIT USA ON OFFICIAL STUDY MISSION AUG. 1-16. MOST ARRANGEMENTS BEING MADE BY BELGIAN EMBASSY/CONSULATES GENERAL IN U.S., WHO TOLD US THE MINISTER WOULD APPRECIATE APPROPRIATE APPOINTMENTS WITH USG OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON ON AUG. 7. MINISTER CLAES, WHO IS YOUNGEST MEMBER BELGIAN CABINET, IS FLEMISH SOCIALIST WITH PROMISING FUTURE AND AT PRESENT HAS RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPORTANT SUBJECTS OF INTEREST TO USG (E.G., ENERGY, ATOMIC ENERGY, U.S. INVESTMENTS). END SUMMARY.

2. BELGIAN MINECON AFFAIRS WILLY CLAES HAS CONFIRMED HIS INTENTIONS TO VISIT USA BETWEEN AUG. 1-16, 1973, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS CHEF DE CABINET AND SECRETARY GENERAL. CLAES HAS NEVER VISITED U.S. PREVIOUSLY AND VISIT IS INTENDED TO (1) ACQUAINT HIM WITH U.S. IN GENERAL; (2) INITIATE CONTACT WITH SENIOR USG ECONOMIC OFFICIALS AND SENIOR BUSINESSMEN; (3) EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES OF OBTAINING FURTHER U.S. INVESTMENT IN BELGIUM; (4) INITIATE CONTACTS/DIALOGUE IN AREAS OF MUTUAL CONCERN U.S.-BELGIUM, E.G., ENERGY POLICY.

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3. CLAES AT 35 IS YOUNGEST MINISTER IN BELGIAN CABINET. HIS

PORTFOLIO IS IMPORTANT TO U.S. INTERESTS, INCLUDING AMERICAN INVESTMENT, ENERGY, EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ECONOMIC POLICIES, GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, ETC. HE IS MEMBER OF SOCIALIST PARTY; FORMER PRESIDENT OF FLEMISH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION; AND HAS REPUTATION AS VERY FAST-RISING YOUNG LEADER WITH EXCELLENT PROSPECTS.

4. CLAES' TRAVELING ASSOCIATES WILL BE: (A) ANDRE BAEYENS, SECRETARY GENERAL OF MINECON AFFAIRS, A WELL-KNOWN, HARD-DRIVING SENIOR OFFICIAL WITH EXCELLENT CONNECTIONS IN SOCIALIST PARTY. HE IS SENIOR OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR GOB ACTIVITIES IN WIDE-RANGING NUMBER OF SECTORS, E.G., ATOMIC ENERGY, PETROLEUM POLICY, ETC. HAS REPUTATION AS "EMINENCE GRISE" OF ECONOMICS MINISTRY; (B) CHARLES VAN HERBRUGGEN, YOUNG SOCIALIST OFFICIAL WHO IS CLAES' CHIEF DE CABINET. ABOVE OFFICIALS WILL ALSO BE ACCOMPANIED BY CLAES' PERSONAL SECRETARY-ASSISTANT.

5. MAJORITY OF PROGRAM BEING ARRANGED BY BELGIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON. HOWEVER, MINISTER CLAES ASKED OUR ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON FOR AUG. 7. GIVEN MINISTER CLAES' AND SECRETARY GENERAL BAEYEN'S RESPONSIBILITIES, I RECOMMEND STRONG EFFORTS TO ARRANGE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS FOR AUG. 7:

A. GOVERNOR JOHN A. LOVE, ENERGY POLICY OFFICE;
B. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY SHULTZ;
C. UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS CASEY, DEPARTMENT OF STATE;
D. OTHER APPOINTMENTS, AS APPROPRIATE COORDINATION WITH BELGIAN EMBASSY.

6. DEPARTMENT MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER LUNCH FOR CLAES (HOSTED PERHAPS BY UNDER SECRETARY CASEY).

7. I WILL BE IN U.S. DURING VISIT MINISTER CLAES AND WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PARTICIPATE AS APPROPRIATE.

8. ASIDE FROM WASHINGTON VISIT (AUG. 6-7), BELGIAN EMBASSY ARRANGING PROGRAM IN USA AS FOLLOWS:

AUG. 1 - ARRIVAL NEW YORK ON SABENA
2 - APPOINTMENTS ARRANGED BY FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK
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3 - APPOINTMENTS WITH AMERICAN COMPANIES IN NEW YORK
4-5 - SIGHTSEEING
6 - TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON; BELGIAN EMBASSY
7 - APPOINTMENTS WITH USG OFFICIALS
8 - SIGHTSEEING; DEPARTURE FOR CHICAGO
9 - MEETING WITH FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF CHICAGO
10 - APPOINTMENTS WITH AMERICAN COMPANIES; SIGHTSEEING
11 - TRAVEL TO SAN FRANCISCO; APPOINTMENTS ARRANGED BY BELGIAN

CONSUL GENERAL

12 - SIGHTSEEING

13 - MEETING AT BANK OF AMERICAN

14 - VISIT TO AMERICAN COMPANIES AND INSTITUTIONS (E.G.,
STANFORD RESEARCH INSTITUTE)

15 - SIGHTSEEING, DEPARTURE FOR BRUSSELS VIA NEW YORK.

9. I HAVE PROMISED TO PASS ON TO MINISTER CLAES INFORMATION ON
SCHEDULE AS IT DEVELOPS AND WOULD APPRECIATE BEING KEPT
INFORMED.

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